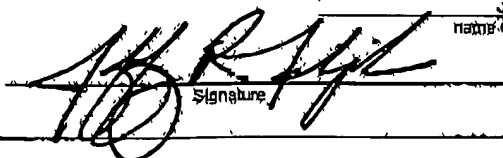


CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

Jeffrey R. Filipek
name of person signing certification
SignatureAugust 24, 2004
Date

Revised PTO/SB/30 (02/01)

**REQUEST
for
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)
TRANSMITTAL**

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000,
provided for continued examination of a utility or plant application
filed on or after June 8, 1995.
See the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).

Application Number	09/244,037
Filing Date	February 4, 1999
First Named Inventor	Mitsuaki OSHIMA et al.
Group Art Unit	2634
Examiner Name	A. Le
Attorney Docket Number	00177/MU-1296/P9558-04
Confirmation No.	3295

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

NOTE: 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 50092 (Aug. 16, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114

a. ☐ Previously submitted:

- i. ☐ Please enter and consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on
- ii. ☐ Please consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on
- iii. ☐ Other

b. ☒ Enclosed:

- i. ☐ Amendment/Reply
- ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
- iii. ☒ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- iv. ☒ Other Petition for Withdrawal from Issue Under 37 CFR 1.313(c)

2. Miscellaneous

- a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of months. (period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required).

b. ☐ Other

3. Fees (The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed.)

- a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 23-0975.
 - i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e)
 - ii. ☐ Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and § 1.17)
 - iii. ☒ Other Petition fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(h)

- b. ☐ Check in the amount of \$ enclosed

RECEIVED

AUG 24 2004

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE
FEES FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

4. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

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August 24, 2004